

# Meeting Minutes

## Recycling and Refuse Management Committee

January 6, 2014 ● DPW Conference Room ● 5 PM

Attending:

Cristina Cox Fernandes, Susan Morrello, Arnie Alper, Craig Goff, John Root, Susan Waite, Laurel Dickey

### **Review Committee charge**

We reviewed the charge of the committee as per Town Meeting. Members felt the charge might benefit from being more specific in places.

The committee is charged with continuing to develop a comprehensive, long term solid waste plan that:

- emphasizes source separation and recycling, and full use of any regional recycling facility
- promotes regionalization of solid waste policy
- expands town recycling programs to include apartment and complexes
- investigates cooperative efforts that lead to recycling of solid waste from the University of Massachusetts, commercial firms and other institutions within the town
- initiates a town-wide program to compost what can be safely composted, including private, commercial and municipal organic debris
- evaluates and takes advantage of other state and federal programs that foster recycling, composting and waste reduction
- provides adequate and timely publicity, consultation and general education to those affected when designing or implementing new programs, and
- coordinates the introduction of a conservation curriculum with the Amherst School System

### **Generate list of potential projects**

Each member independently identified key areas (s)he felt that the Committee should address in the next 12-24 months. We reported out and voted for our top three choices. The areas identified and total points received are as follows:

1. Create community buy-in to ZW concept
2. Community education & volunteer force (3 points)
3. Transfer Station/Resource Recovery Park (11 points)
4. Curbside composting (4 points)
5. Composting (2 points)
6. Curbside/residential services/pick-up –explore/investigate (1 point)
7. Non-residential waste issues: enforcement, downtown recycling, businesses, schools, apt complexes (3 points)
8. Downtown recycling (8 points)
9. Move ZW agenda forward
10. Recycling compliance –individuals & haulers (2 points)
11. Enforcement officer
12. UMass return to dual stream
13. Plastic bag ban
14. Town zero waste proclamation (2 points)
15. Promote anaerobic digestion facility
16. Valley Zero Waste promotion, connection
17. School system composting & recycling

### **Determine short and long term goals for the Committee**

After discussion, the key initiatives are as follows:

- ✓ Downtown recycling
- ✓ Recommendations re: Transfer station/SWEF
- ✓ Community composting (includes curbside and general composting initiatives)
- ✓ Ongoing: Committee/self-education, monthly meetings, public education @ annual events, continued support of zero waste and past initiatives

Laurel motioned that we invite Guilford to attend RRMCM meetings regularly in order for the committee to get needed information, especially when the transfer station is being discussed, or other topics on which he has information are being discussed. Motion amended to read: John will notify Guilford that the committee would like more of his regular attendance at meetings. John and Susan will establish the meeting agenda one month in advance and invite Guilford if it is perceived that his attendance would be especially beneficial. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Laurel Dickey